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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, NOVEMBER 9, 2001

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUC010226

Ex Parte: Establishment of a
Performance Assurance Plan
for Verizon Virginia Inc.

PRELIMINARY ORDER

On October 30, 2001, the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") initiated a proceeding to establish performance standards for Verizon Virginia Inc. ("Verizon Virginia").¹ In addition, pursuant to this Order of October 30, 2001, in Case No. PUC010206, the Commission determined it would consider all proposals for a remedy or performance assurance plan ("PAP") for Verizon Virginia in a separately docketed case. We now establish this docket to consider such PAP proposals.²

¹ Ex Parte: *Establishment of Carrier Performance Standards for Verizon Virginia Inc.*, Case No. PUC010206, Order for Notice and Comment or Requests for Hearing, issued October 30, 2001 ("Order of October 30, 2001"). A set of proposed carrier performance standards for Verizon Virginia were developed through a collaborative process involving various parties in conjunction with the Commission's Collaborative Committee. See Ex Parte: *Establishment of a Collaborative Committee to Investigate Market Opening Measures*, Case No. PUC000026, 2000 S.C.C. Ann. Rpt. 302, 303 issued March 2, 2000.

² A PAP's purpose is to provide "appropriate remedies" should Verizon Virginia fail to meet any performance standards ultimately adopted by this Commission.

Any interested parties may file a proposed PAP for Verizon Virginia on or before November 30, 2001.³ Thereafter, on or before December 21, 2001, any party may file written comments or request a hearing on the PAP proposals filed. We also invite interested parties to address related issues regarding the adoption of a PAP, including: the extent of this Commission's authority to impose and enforce any of the PAP proposals filed; what constitutes an acceptable PAP for purposes of Verizon Virginia securing approval from the Federal Communications Commission to provide interLATA services originating in Virginia under § 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; and ways in which a PAP can be designed and structured so as to create an effective incentive to Verizon Virginia to correct its underlying performance when necessary, other than paying fines or penalties to competitive local exchange carriers.

In the event that a hearing request is granted, the Commission will establish a further procedural schedule, including the prefiling of testimony.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This case shall be docketed to consider proposed performance assurance plans for Verizon Virginia consistent with the findings above.

³ Any party submitting a PAP should also provide an electronic version to the Commission in order for such PAP to be made available on our website.

(2) All interested parties are hereby granted leave to file proposed performance assurance plans for Verizon Virginia on or before November 30, 2001.

(3) All interested parties are hereby granted leave to file comments and/or requests for hearing, consistent with the findings above, on or before December 21, 2001.

(4) This case is now continued.